

BIPARTISAN CAMPAIGN
INTEGRITY ACT OF 1997

SPEECH OF

HON. LOUIS STOKES

OF OHIO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, August 5, 1998

The House in Committee of the Whole House on the State of the Union had under consideration the bill (H.R. 2183) to amend the Federal Election Campaign Act of 1971 to reform the financing of campaign for elections for Federal office, and for other purposes:

Mr. STOKES. Mr. Chairman, I rise in strong support of H.R. 3526, the Bipartisan Campaign Reform Act of 1998, the Shays-Meehan substitute. This important measure will remove the element of "soft money" raised at the Federal level, while curbing its influence on Federal elections through State parties.

By weighing in on such unlimited contributions, we can overwhelmingly reduce the appearance of wealthy individuals placing a stranglehold on our Nation's party system. It is our responsibility to close these loopholes which encourage the endless quest for funds in our election system.

While strengthening the laws governing campaign finance, Shay-Meehan seeks to weed out the special interests who attempt to influence elections with unregulated sham advertisements. This measure expands the definition of what constitutes "express advocacy" advertisements by third party groups who circumvent current campaign finance regulations. Such advertisements, while purporting to be issue advocacy, have created a negative and costly environment for candidates to debate issues during the campaign season.

Throughout my tenure in Congress, I have weighed the merits of measures that seek to improve our political system against those that have an adverse influence on it. Unfortunately, there have been attempts by our colleagues to weaken the Shays-Meehan substitute by imposing "poison pill" amendments to the measure. Some of these would not only limit the effectiveness of Shays-Meehan, but would hinder specific rights provided for all voting Americans.

For example, I strongly oppose efforts allowing States to require picture identification in order to vote. This affront to Federal anti-discrimination requirements has no place in a debate over campaign finance. Additionally, I take exception to amendments requiring candidates to raise a specific percentage of campaign funds from within their home State and the elimination of particular fundraising mechanisms, such as "bundling." I have voted against these amendments because such limitations place far too many candidates at a disadvantage, especially minorities and females, while still not remedying the core problems relating to our current campaign financing system.

It has become clear that the financing of Federal elections has become too large a concern for both congressional candidates and incumbents alike. During the 1996 election cycle, candidates for both the House and Senate reported spending over \$765 million, a 72 percent increase over 1990. As campaign costs continue to outpace the rate of inflation, particularly media expenses, candidates are

forced to spend disproportionate amounts of time raising funds just to remain competitive.

Mr. Speaker, I urge my colleagues to support final passage of the Shays-Meehan substitute. I believe now is the time to restore the American people's faith in the electoral process by reining in on the unsavory special interests who pollute our political system. Support the Shays-Meehan substitute. Our democracy deserves nothing less.

RECOGNIZING THE FIFTIETH ANNI-
VERSARY OF THE SOMERSET
COUNTY 4-H FAIR**HON. MICHAEL PAPPAS**

OF NEW JERSEY

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, August 6, 1998

Mr. PAPPAS. Mr. Speaker, as we begin to gear up for Congress' annual August district work period, I rise today to recognize the 50th annual Somerset County 4-H Fair. As a member of 4-H for many years, an annual attendee, active supporter and volunteer, as well as fair manager, I have maintained close ties to this organization and it holds a very special place in my life.

As one of many 4-H Fairs in the State of New Jersey, it is the only fair that does not charge admission. The Fair exhibits a variety of 4-H youth projects for public observation. The Somerset County 4-H Fair is located at the County Fairgrounds at North Branch Park on Milltown Road in Bridgewater and attracts more than 75,000 people annually.

I am pleased to be part of the 4-H program that gives the youth of our county the tools and knowledge to succeed in life. Today's children represent the future of our nation and it is gratifying to know that this program exists throughout New Jersey and especially in Somerset County.

Throughout my time as a Somerset County Freeholder, I sponsored County Government Career Days for 4-H participants and have continued the tradition as a Member of Congress beginning a Twelfth Congressional District Day. Over the past two years, 4-H participants from around the 12th district have spent a day in my district office in Flemington and then in Washington learning about congressional operations.

4-H has been and continues to be a model program in our nation. It offers our nation's youth an opportunity to learn the values and skills that are needed to succeed. The 4-H should be commended for its on-going efforts to educate the youth of our country and instill in them a sense of community service and awareness. As Congress continues to emphasize the need for service organizations and volunteers to assume a greater role, it will be creative programs like 4-H that year after year continue to bring about positive change.

Make no mistake about it—4-H makes a positive difference in the lives of so many children. When they are learning to choose between right and wrong—4-H is there to show them the right thing to do. And the skills that they learn stay with them for life.

Mr. Speaker, I look forward to spending a great deal of time at the Somerset County 4-H Fair over the district work period and spending time with participants, volunteers, and parents that make this program and this fair such a great success.

A TRIBUTE TO ROGER KUNKEL ON
HIS RETIREMENT AS PASTOR OF
RIVERSIDE PRESBYTERIAN
CHURCH**HON. WILLIAM O. LIPINSKI**

OF ILLINOIS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, August 6, 1998

Mr. LIPINSKI. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize Roger Kunkel, pastor of the Riverside Presbyterian Church in my district, as he retires from 21 years of dedicated service to his congregation and community.

Roger Kunkel was appointed the Interim Pastor of the Riverside Presbyterian Church in March 1978, and shortly thereafter became Senior Pastor, a position he held until this past May of 1998. As a man of faith and friend to the community, Roger Kunkel served his congregation with kindness, grace and leadership in promoting ministry and fellowship.

Roger Kunkel is a man with visions, and saw the needs of the church to expand the ministry staff to serve the congregation more efficiently, which directly increased to activity in the youth programs. In addition, Roger Kunkel organized the Ryan Womack Scholarship Fund that has awarded over \$100,000 in college scholarships since its inception in 1991. Because of his service and dedication, the congregation not only grew in number, but also in spirit and fellowship.

Roger Kunkel is a man of great faith who has touched the lives of many. Roger Kunkel's service and dedication will be remembered by all he came in contact with. Mr. Speaker, I would also like to extend my warmest wishes as Roger Kunkel embarks on the journey his retirement will bestow upon him.

MARCHING INTO ANOTHER
CENTURY OF EXCELLENCE**HON. JAMES A. BARCIA**

OF MICHIGAN

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, August 6, 1998

Mr. BARCIA. Mr. Speaker, nothing can be more invigorating than being proud of where we live, and I must tell you that the people of Caseville, Michigan, are among the proudest people I have ever met. This Saturday, Caseville will be holding its Grand Parade as part of its Centennial Celebration, and what a century it has been.

The history of this area rightfully claims that "this pretty little village is located on Saginaw Bay at the mouth of the Pigeon River." Tracing its development back to the mid-1800's, the first settlers were Reuben Dodge, his wife and family, who came from Maine in 1840. William Rattle came in 1852 on behalf of Leonard Case, establishing a sawmill in the town that was then called Port Elizabeth in honor of Mr. Rattle's wife. The first school opened in 1859. The first hotel was opened at the head of Main Street by Robert Squiers in 1856, and the first mail came into town in 1858. A flouring mill was opened in 1870, and the first salt well in the area opened in the spring of 1871. The Pigeon River salt and iron works was started in 1873. The community continued to change and grow with the change, until on October 15, 1898, the Village